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# Independence in generic structures

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## Abstract

Wagner [W] proved that in generic structures forking independence and independence defined by dimension function are essentially the same. He proved the result under the assumption that the closure of a finite set is also finite. Verbovskiy and Yoneda [VY] provided some notions for studying generic structures without this finiteness condition and eliminated the finiteness assumption from the result. Here we give a very short proof of the result.

## 1 Introduction

Let  $L = \{R_i : i \in \omega\}$  and for each  $i \in \omega$  let  $\alpha_i > 0$  be given.  $\delta$  is the function assigning to each finite  $L$ -structure the value  $|A| - \sum \alpha_i |R_i^A|$ . Let  $K$  be the class of all finite  $L$ -structures  $A$  such that  $\delta(A_0) \geq 0$  for every substructure  $A_0$  of  $A$ .  $K_0$  is a subclass of  $K$  and  $M$  is a stable structure all of whose finite substructures belong to  $K_0$ .  $\mathcal{M}$  is a big model of  $T = Th(M)$ . The following proposition is proved by Wagner [W] under the finite closure assumption. Later Verbovskiy and Yoneda [VY] eliminated the finiteness assumption from the result. Here we give a direct proof. We do not assume the finiteness condition.

**Proposition 1** *Let  $B, C$  be closed sets in  $\mathcal{M}$ . Suppose that  $A = B \cap C$  is algebraically closed. Suppose also that  $B$  and  $C$  are independent over  $A$ . Then (1)  $B$  and  $C$  are free over  $A$  and (2)  $BC$  is closed.*

In section 1, we recall some definitions and state basic lemmas on generic structures. In section 2, we prove the above proposition by a straightforward method. We assume that the reader has some knowledge of stability theory. In particular, the reader is supposed to know the notion Morley sequence.

## 2 Preliminaries

**Definition 2** 1. Let  $A \subset B \in K$ . We say that  $A$  is closed in  $B$  (in symbol  $A \leq B$ ) if whenever  $X \subset B - A$  then  $\delta(X/A)(= \delta(XA) - \delta(A)) \geq 0$ .

2. Let  $A \subset N$ , where  $N \models T$ .

- (a) We say that  $A$  is closed in  $N$  if whenever  $B$  is a finite subset of  $N$  then  $A \cap B \leq B$ .
- (b) The closure of  $A$  (in  $N$ ) is the minimum closed set containing  $A$ . (The closure always exists.) The closure of  $A$  is written as  $cl(A)$ .

**Lemma 3** For every  $A$ ,  $cl(A) \subset acl(A)$ .

*Proof.* Let  $N \prec \mathcal{M}$  be a small model with  $N \supset A$  and choose the closure  $C$  of  $A$  in  $N$ . Then, by  $N \prec \mathcal{M}$ ,  $C$  is the closure of  $A$  in  $\mathcal{M}$ . Suppos that there is  $c \in C$  which is nonalgebraic over  $A$ . Then we can choose an element  $d \in \mathcal{M} - N$  with  $tp(c/A) = tp(d/A)$ . Let  $\sigma$  be an  $A$ -automorphism sending  $c$  to  $d$ . Then we would have two different closures  $C$  and  $\sigma(C)$ . A contradiction.

**Lemma 4** Let  $A \subset B_0 \leq B_1$  and  $A \subset C_0 \leq C_1$ . Suppose that  $B_1$  and  $C_1$  are free over  $A$ . If  $B_1C_1$  is closed then  $B_0C_0$  is also closed.

*Proof.* We assume  $B_1C_1$  is closed. Let  $X \subset \mathcal{M} - B_0C_0$  be a finite set and put  $X_B = X \cap B_1$ ,  $X_C = X \cap C_1$  and  $\hat{X} = X - B_1C_1$ . Then we have the following inequalities:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \delta(X/B_0C_0) &= \delta(\hat{X}/B_0C_0X_BX_C) + \delta(X_BX_C/B_0C_0) \\
 &\geq \delta(\hat{X}/B_1C_1) + \delta(X_BX_C/B_0C_0) \\
 &\geq \delta(X_BX_C/B_0C_0) \\
 &= \delta(X_B/X_CB_0C_0) + \delta(X_B/B_0C_0).
 \end{aligned}$$

By the freeness and  $B_0 \leq B_1$ ,  $\delta(X_B/X_CB_0C_0) = \delta(X_B/B_0) \geq 0$ . Similarly,  $\delta(X_B/B_0C_0) \geq 0$ . So we have  $\delta(X/B_0C_0) \geq 0$ .

### 3 Proof of the Proposition

Let  $B' = \text{acl}(B)$  and  $C' = \text{acl}(C)$ . If we prove  $B'C' = B' \otimes_A C' \leq \mathcal{M}$ , then  $BC = B \otimes_A C \leq \mathcal{M}$  follows from lemma. So we can assume that  $B$  and  $C$  are algebraically closed. By  $B \downarrow_A C$ , we can choose sequences  $\{B_i : i \in \omega\}$  and  $\{C_i : i \in \omega\}$  satisfying the following conditions:

1.  $\{B_i : i \in \omega\}$  is a Morley sequence of  $\text{tp}(B/A)$ ;
2.  $\{C_i : i \in \omega\}$  is a Morley sequence of  $\text{tp}(C/A)$ ;
3.  $\{B_i : i \in \omega\}$  and  $\{C_i : i \in \omega\}$  are independent over  $A$ , so the set  $\{B_i : i \in \omega\} \cup \{C_i : i \in \omega\}$  is an independent set over  $A$ .
4.  $\text{tp}(B_i C_j / A) = \text{tp}(BC/A)$ , for any  $i, j \in \omega$ .

Such sequences can be found by using an easy compactness argument.

(1) Freeness: By way of a contradiction, we assume there are tuples  $\emptyset \neq \bar{b} \in B - A$ ,  $\emptyset \neq \bar{c} \in C - A$  and  $\bar{a} \in A$  with  $R_i(\bar{b}, \bar{c}, \bar{a})$ . By condition 4, we can find  $\bar{b}_i \in B$  and  $\bar{c}_i \in C_i$  such that for any  $i, j \in \omega$ ,  $\text{tp}(\bar{b}_i \bar{c}_j \bar{a}) = \text{tp}(\bar{b} \bar{c} \bar{a})$ . So  $R(\bar{b}_i, \bar{c}_j, \bar{a})$  holds for any  $(i, j) \in \omega^2$ . We fix  $n \in \omega$ . Then we have the following inequality:

$$\delta(\bigcup_{i < n} \bar{b}_i \bar{c}_i \bar{a}) \leq n|\bar{b} \bar{c} \bar{a}| - \alpha_i n^2.$$

This right value is negative for a sufficiently large  $n$ . A contradiction.

(2) Suppose that  $BC$  is not closed and choose finite tuples  $\bar{d} \in \text{acl}(BC) - BC$ ,  $\bar{b} \in B$  and  $\bar{c} \in C$  with  $\varepsilon := \delta(\bar{d}/\bar{b}\bar{c}) < 0$ .

By condition 4 above, for all  $i, j \in \omega$ , we can choose  $\bar{b}_i \in B_i$ ,  $\bar{c}_i \in C_i$  and  $\bar{d}_{ij}$  such that  $\text{tp}(\bar{b} \bar{c} \bar{d} BC) = \text{tp}(\bar{b}_i \bar{c}_i \bar{d}_{ij} B_i C_j)$ .

**Claim A**  $(\bigcup_{(i,j) \in \omega^2} \bar{d}_{ij}) \cap (\bigcup_{i \in \omega} B_i C_i) = \emptyset$

Suppose otherwise and choose  $i, j, m$  and  $e \in \bar{d}_{ij} \cap (B_m C_m)$ . By symmetry, we may assume  $e \in B_m$ . So we have  $e \in \text{acl}(B_i C_j) \cap B_m$ . By choice of  $\bar{d}$  (and  $\bar{d}_{ij}$ ),  $m \neq i$ . So, from  $B_i C_j \downarrow_A B_m$ , we have  $e \in \text{acl}(A) = A$ . So we must have  $\bar{d}_{ij} \cap A \neq \emptyset$ , a contradiction.

**Claim B**  $\bar{d}_{ij}$ 's are disjoint.

By way of a contradiction, we assume  $e \in \bar{d}_{ij} \cap \bar{d}_{i'j'}$  for some pair  $(i, j) \neq (i', j')$ . First assume  $\{i, j\} \cap \{i', j'\} = \emptyset$ . Then, by the independence of  $B_i C_j$  and  $B_{i'} C_{j'}$  over  $A$ , we have  $e \in A$ , so we have  $\bar{d}_{ij} \cap A \neq \emptyset$ , a contradiction. Then, since other cases are similar, we can assume  $i = i'$  and  $j \neq j'$ . In this case, we have  $e \in \text{acl} B_i = B_i$ . Again, this is a contradiction.

So, as in (1), we have

$$\begin{aligned} \delta(\bigcup_{(i,j) \in n^2} \bar{d}_{(i,j)} \cup \bigcup_{i < n} \bar{b}_i \bar{c}_i) &\leq \delta(\bigcup_{(i,j) \in n^2} \bar{d}_{(i,j)} / \bigcup_{i < n} \bar{b}_i \bar{c}_i) + \delta(\bigcup_{i < n} \bar{b}_i \bar{c}_i) \\ &\leq n^2 \varepsilon + n \delta(\bar{b}_0 \bar{c}_0). \end{aligned}$$

For a sufficiently large  $n$ , we get a contradiction.

- Remark 5** 1. In our proof of Proposition 1, we did not use the “genericity” of the structure  $M$ . If we assume the “genericity”, the converse of Proposition 1 is true by the following argument. Suppose that  $BC = B \otimes_A C \leq \mathcal{M}$ . Let  $\{C_i : i < \alpha\}$  be a sufficiently long Morley sequence of  $\text{tp}(C/A)$ . Then, by stability, there is  $i$  such that  $B$  and  $C_i$  are independent over  $A$ . By proposition  $BC_i = B \otimes_A C_i \leq \mathcal{M}$ . Then we have  $BC \cong_A BC_i$  and that they are closed. So they have the same type over  $A$ , hence  $BC = B \otimes_A C \leq \mathcal{M}$ . (For details see [W] or [VY].)
2. The assumption that  $A$  is algebraically closed is necessary in general. But Ikeda [I] showed that the algebraicity assumption can be eliminated if  $(L = \{R(*, *)\}$  and)  $K_0$  is closed under subgraphs.

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